[President.]

under Rule 74 of the Legislative Rules has been allotted for the latter. The demands will be discuseed in the order in which they appear in the printed list placed in your hands. The demands under II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income, and VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage may each be discussed for half a day, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining demands.

The procedure in calculating the time for the voting of demands will be the one adopted in previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P M of which the first hour is available for questions and answers and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) will be the lunch interval. The remaining four hours will be reckoned as a full day and two hours as half a day. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only enable the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are of course aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole and vote upon it as a whole without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a large number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debate.

I shall be glad if honourable members who wish to take part in the general discussion will send in their names to the Secretary indicating whether they would like to speak in the forenoon or in the afternoon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

President: Before the general discussion on the budget commences and before the condolence motion is taken up, I wish to make one or two announcements which I think will be useful in view to the general discussion. These announcements have resulted from recent decisions of Government and are made for the first time in this honourable House. Government have been for some time carefully considering the position as it arises from year to year in regard to economic depression and to scarcity due to deluge or

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drought or something of that kind. Year after year, measures are taken by Government either by way of remission or relief and naturally the action taken and the amount available have been to a large extent conditioned by the general state of the budget and the amount available. So, Government have come to the conclusion that a new system should be devised. Every year, compulsorily a sum of not less than Rs. one lakh will be set apart as a reserve fund to be accumulated with compound interest to be utilised in cases of real and urgent necessity, whether it be for flood in one part of the country or drought in another part or special economic depression due to specific conditions arising in another part. Fortunately, on account of our present position this year, I am in a position to say that Government propose to set apart Rs. one lakh and a half this year by way of Reserve Fund. Hereafter, this Reserve Fund will be not less than Rs. one lakh every year ; and if our finances continue to be as satisfactory as they are at present, notwithstanding difficult conditions, probably more will be set apart. But the idea will be that just as in the case of the Famine Insurance of the Government of India, this fund, will gradually amount to a fairly big sum out of which it will be possible to relieve distress quickly and without any reference to the conditions of the budget for the time being in any particular year. That is the policy of the Government and I am sure the honourable members will see that such a policy is better than a hand to mouth policy of temporary and immediate relief from time to time.

Two other matters may also be mentioned. The Government have come to the conclusion that especially in this time of economic privation and scarcity, a great deal of mischief is being done and a great deal of deceit practised with regard to weights and measures. They propose almost immediately to enact—it may be as an urgent measure—a law as to weights and measures to be available throughout the State, so that people might not take advantage of the present position. Even in one city like Trivandrum, there are two or three different sets of measures and weights and this is most inconvenient. The new reform is expected to come into force within two months or six weeks from now.

Thirdly, it has been brought to the notice of this honourable House that the maintenance of what is called 'Trivandrum time' is rather confusing in view to the new system of rapid communications. The keeping of two timings is rather embarrassing in the case of users of the Transport Bus system who in turn find it difficult to connect up with railway time. Those who are using the All-India Telephone in places from Alleppey and Trivandrum also feel much difficulty in the matter. Government therefore have decided that, from 1st Chingom 1117, Indian Standard Time will be adopted throughout the State.

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